

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR:SOV:DGRIMES:RBARRY:REH

APPROVED BY EUR:SOV:MGARRISON

A:DLANGAN

EUR/EX:JTULL

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P 052237Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194802

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ABLD, UR, US

SUBJECT:WASHINGTON-MOSCOW EMBASSY COMPLEXES

REF: 75 STATE 276944

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET EMBASSY DCM VORONTSOV ASKED WHEN SOVIETS COULD BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR STAFF APARTMENTS IN WASHINGTON AND SUGGESTED WE SUBMIT LIST OF UNREQUITED NEEDS IN MOSCOW. END SUMMARY

2. IN MEETING WITH DIRECTOR EUR/SOV JULY 30, VORONTSOV ASKED IF DEPARTMENT HAD DECIDED WHETHER SOVIETS COULD BEGIN CONSTRUCTION ON THEIR STAFF APARTMENTS IN WASHINGTON. HE INDICATED AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN MAY ALSO RAISE QUESTION WITH SECRETARY.

3. GARRISON REPLIED WE ARE STILL EXAMINING THE QUESTION AS PROMISED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN. HOWEVER, VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ON THE LIST OF NEEDS AFFECTING OUR PRESENT OPERATIONS IN MOSCOW. AS WE HAVE STATED, PROGRESS MUST BE MADE ON THESE ISSUES BEFORE WE ALLOW SOVIETS TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION IN WASHINGTON.

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4. VORONTSOV SAID HE THOUGHT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS IN MOSCOW WERE BEING SOLVED, FOR EXAMPLE APARTMENTS. GARRISON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED A FEW APARTMENTS, BUT NOT NEARLY THE NUMBER WE NEED TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS. NONE OF THE OTHER ITEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

5. VORONTSOV ASSERTED THAT THE ELECTRICITY PROBLEM IS BEING RESOLVED. SOVIET TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN TO THE EMBASSY AND AFTER SOME DISCUSSION HAVE AGREED TO INSTALL NEW BOXES ON THE EDGE OF THE EMBASSY PROPERTY. GARRISON REPLIED HE HAD NO INDICATION FROM OUR EMBASSY THAT THIS OR ANY OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS ARE NEAR RESOLUTION.

6. VORONTSOV SAID IN ORDER TO BE HELPFUL AND TO CLARIFY THE PROBLEM, HE WOULD LIKE A LIST OF THOSE ITEMS THE USG HAD REQUESTED FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND THEIR PRESENT STATUS.

7. IN ARGUING THE NEED FOR THE SOVIETS TO BEGIN EARLY, VORONTSOV INDICATED IT WOULD TAKE OVER TWO YEARS FOR THE STAFF APARTMENTS TO BE COMPLETED. IF DURING THAT TIME EVERYTHING THE USG REQUESTED IN MOSCOW WERE ACCOMPLISHED, WE WOULD BE GAINING AN ADVANTAGE.

8. VORONTSOV ALSO MADE EXPLICIT AN IDEA HE HAS ALLUDED TO IN THE PAST, THAT THE SOVIETS DO NOT HAVE FINAL ARCHITECTURAL PLANS FOR THEIR CHANCERY AND APPARENTLY DO NOT INTEND TO GO AHEAD WITH THAT PART OF THEIR COMPLEX AT THIS TIME. HE INDICATED THEY WILL RETALIATE FOR OUR FAILURE TO GIVE THEM A HEAD START BY HOLDING US TO THE LETTER OF THE 1972 AGREEMENT BY REFUSING TO LET US OCCUPY OUR CHANCERY UNTIL THEIRS IS FINISHED.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO REVIEW LIST OF DESIDERATA PRESENTED TO SOVIETS NOVEMBER 21, 1975, (SEE REFTTEL) AND REPORT ON STATUS OF ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE NEW APPROACH TO SOVIETS. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENT ON VORONTSOV'S SUGGESTION THAT BY INTENTIONALLY DELAYING THEIR CHANCERY CONSTRUCTION HERE, SOVIETS CAN HOLD US AT END OF ROAD IN RETALIATION FOR HOLDING THEM TO CONFIDENTIAL

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QUOTE PARALLEL PROGRESS UNQUOTE AT BEGINNING. A POSSIBLE APPROACH TO DEALING WITH THIS WOULD BE TO INCLUDE EARLY OCCUPANCY OF US CHANCERY IN US LIST OF DESIDERATA IN RETURN FOR EARLY SOVIET START ON HOUSING HERE.

10. ABOVE WAS DRAFTED BEFORE RECEIPT OF MOSCOW 12376. PLEASE PROVIDE WHATEVER SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS REQUIRED AS PER PARA 9 ABOVE. HABIB

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